

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A computer-implemented method of ~~searching, navigating or retrieving one or more information objects in one or more electronic archives and including ranking the~~ a relevance of a node in a linked set of nodes, comprising:

determining an authority weight for said node using a non-compound, non-normalized Forward operator and without using a Backward operator;

determining a hub weight for said node using a non-compound, non-normalized Backward operator and without using a Forward operator such that said steps of determining are mathematically decoupled; ~~and~~

ranking said relevance based upon said authority weight and said hub weight; and
at least one of searching, navigating or retrieving one or more information objects in one or more electronic archives based upon said ranking.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein said determining an authority weight for said node comprises:

choosing a forward start vector of initial authority weights of each node in the linked set of nodes;

determining an updated vector of node weights using the non-compound, non-normalized Forward operator;

normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights; and

testing for convergence, wherein said steps of determining an updated vector of node weights and normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights are repeated until the node weight converges to a determined authority weight.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein said determining a hub weight for said node comprises:

choosing a backward start vector of initial hub weights of each node in the linked set of nodes;

determining an updated vector of node weights using the non-compound, non-normalized Backward operator;

normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights; and

testing for convergence, wherein said steps of determining an updated vector of node weights and normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights are repeated until the node weight converges to a determined hub weight.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, said step of ranking said relevance comprising:

determining a principal eigenvector of a matrix.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, said step of ranking said relevance comprising:

selecting a search term; and

displaying a ranking result.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, said step of ranking said relevance comprising:

ranking the textual content of the node.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A system for ~~searching, navigating or retrieving one or more information objects in one or more electronic archives and including ranking the a~~ relevance of a node in a linked set of nodes comprising:

a calculator configured to calculate an authority weight for said node and a hub weight for said node, using, respectively, a non-compound, non-normalized Forward operator without using a Backward operator and a non-compound, non-normalized Backward operator without using a Forward operator such that said calculations are mathematically decoupled, said calculator further configured to rank said relevance based upon said authority weight and said hub weight; and

a computer-based search engine configured to search, navigate or retrieve one or more information objects in one or more electronic archives based upon said ranked relevance.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 7, wherein said calculator comprises:

a calculator configured to

accept as an input a forward start vector of initial authority weights of each node in the linked set of nodes;

determine an updated vector of node weights using the non-compound, non-normalized Forward operator;

normalize the determined updated vector of node weights;

test for convergence; and

to repeatedly determine an updated vector of node weights and normalize the determined updated vector of node weights until the node weight converges to a determined authority weight.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 7, wherein said calculator comprises:

a calculator configured to

accept as an input a forward start vector of initial hub weights of each node in the linked set of nodes;

determine an updated vector of node weights using the non-compound, non-normalized Forward operator;

normalize the determined updated vector of node weights;

test for convergence; and

to repeatedly determine an updated vector of node weights and normalize the determined updated vector of node weights until the node weight converges to a determined hub weight.

Claim 10 (Original): The system of Claim 7, said calculator comprising:
a calculator configured to calculate a principal eigenvector of a matrix.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 7, further comprising:
a search term selection device connected to said calculator; and
a display connected to said calculator.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 7, further comprising:
a textual content ranking mechanism connected to said calculator.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A computer-implemented method of searching,
~~navigating or retrieving one or more information objects in one or more electronic archives~~

~~and including ranking the~~ a relevance of a node in a linked set of nodes, the improvement comprising:

determining one of

an authority weight for said node using a non-compound, non-normalized

Forward operator and without using a Backward operator,

a hub weight for said node using a non-compound, non-normalized Backward operator and without using a Forward operator; ~~and~~

ranking said relevance based upon said one of an authority weight and a hub weight;

and

at least one of searching, navigating or retrieving one or more information objects in one or more electronic archives based upon said ranking.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 13, wherein said determining an authority weight for said node comprises:

choosing a forward start vector of initial authority weights of each node in the linked set of nodes;

determining an updated vector of node weights using the non-compound, non-normalized Forward operator;

normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights; and

testing for convergence, wherein said steps of determining an updated vector of node weights and normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights are repeated until the node weight converges to determined authority weight.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 13, wherein said determining a hub weight for said node comprises:

choosing a backward start vector of initial hub weights of each node in the linked set of nodes;

determining an updated vector of node weights using the non-compound, non-normalized Backward operator;

normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights; and

testing for convergence, wherein said steps of determining an updated vector of node weights and normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights are repeated until the node weight converges to determined hub weight.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 13, said step of ranking said relevance comprising:

determining a principal eigenvector of a matrix.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 13, said step of ranking said relevance comprising:

selecting a search term.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 13, said step of ranking said relevance comprising:

ranking the textual content of the node.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 7, further comprising:

a relay module connected to said calculator and configured to relay a corresponding calculated authority weight and hub weight to a display.

Claims 20-24 (Cancelled):

Claim 25 (Original): A computer program product configured to host instructions corresponding to any one of the steps of Claims 1-6 and 13-18.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): A system for ~~searching, navigating or retrieving one or more information objects in one or more electronic archives and including ranking the a~~ relevance of a node in a linked set of nodes, comprising:

means for determining an authority weight for said node using a non-compound, non-normalized Forward operator without using a Backward operator;

means for determining a hub weight for said node using a non-compound, non-normalized Backward operator without using a Forward operator such that said means for determining an authority weight and said means for determining a hub weight are mathematically decoupled; and

means for ranking said relevance based upon said authority weight and said hub weight; and

means for at least one of searching, navigating or retrieving one or more information objects in one or more electronic archives based upon said ranking.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 26, wherein said means for determining an authority weight for said node comprises:

means for choosing a forward start vector of initial authority weights of each node in the linked set of nodes;

means for determining an updated vector of node weights using the non-compound, non-normalized Forward operator;

means for normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights; and

means for testing for convergence, wherein said means for determining an updated vector of node weights and means for normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights are configured to repeat their respective operations until the node weight converges to determined authority weight.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 26, wherein said means for determining a hub weight for said node comprises:

means for choosing a backward start vector of initial hub weights of each node in the linked set of nodes;

means for determining an updated vector of node weights using the non-compound, non-normalized Backward operator;

means for normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights; and

means for testing for convergence, wherein said means for determining an updated vector of node weights and means for normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights are configured to repeat their respective operations until the node weight converges to determined hub weight.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 26, said means for ranking comprising:

means for determining a principal eigenvector of a matrix.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 26, said means for ranking comprising:

means for selecting a search term; and

means for displaying a ranking result.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 26, said means for ranking comprising:

means for ranking the textual content of the node.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): A system for ~~searching, navigating or retrieving one or more information objects in one or more electronic archives and including ranking the a~~ relevance of a node in a linked set of nodes, the improvement comprising:

means for determining one of

an authority weight for said node using a non-compound, non-normalized

Forward operator without using a Forward operator, and

a hub weight for said node using a non-compound, non-normalized Backward operator without using a Backward operator; ~~and~~

means for ranking said relevance based upon said one of an authority weight and a hub weight; and

means for at least one of searching, navigating or retrieving one or more information objects in one or more electronic archives based upon said ranking.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 32, wherein said means for determining an authority weight for said node comprises:

means for choosing a forward start vector of initial authority weights of each node in the linked set of nodes;

means for determining an updated vector of node weights using the non-compound, non-normalized Forward operator;

means for normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights; and

means for testing for convergence, wherein said means for determining an updated vector of node weights and means for normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights are configured to repeat their respective operations until the node weight converges to determined authority weight.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 32, wherein said means for determining a hub weight for said node comprises:

means for choosing a backward start vector of initial hub weights of each node in the linked set of nodes;

means for determining an updated vector of node weights using the non-compound, non-normalized Backward operator;

means for normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights; and

means for testing for convergence, wherein said means for determining an updated vector of node weights and means for normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights are configured to repeat their respective operations until the node weight converges to determined hub weight.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 32, said means for ranking comprising:

means for determining a principal eigenvector of a matrix.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 32, said means for ranking comprising:

means for selecting a search term.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 32, said means for ranking comprising:

means for ranking the textual content of the node.